

cause in the United States and abroad. The Order is designed to deny these traffickers the benefit of any assets subject to the jurisdiction of the United States and to prevent United States persons from engaging in any commercial dealings with them, their front companies, and their agents. Executive Order No. 12978 demonstrates the U.S. commitment to end the scourge that such traffickers have wrought upon society in the United States and beyond.

The magnitude and the dimension of the problem in Colombia—perhaps the most pivotal country of all in terms of the world's cocaine trade—is extremely grave. I shall continue to exercise the powers at my disposal to apply economic sanctions against significant foreign narcotics traffickers and their violent and corrupting activities as long as these measures are appropriate, and will continue to report periodically to the Congress on significant developments pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1703(c).

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, April 23, 1996.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of May 12, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. BURTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

#### CLOSING A PROFITABLE PLANT MAY LEAD TO A CHANGE IN THE RULES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. FRANK] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, this is a speech I was hoping I would not have to give. It is a speech I may have to repeat at greater length, and I hope I will not have to do that.

In the City of New Bedford, which I represent, there is a plant, the J.C. Rhodes Co., which has been for a very long time a successful manufacturing plant, manufacturing metal fasteners, manufacturing some basic devices, and they have been profitable. We have heard a lot about American industry not being able to compete. Well, we have a plant here with an excellent dedicated work force. This plant has been around 100 years, and it is successful and profitable.

Recently the plant was bought, not by another primary metal producer, but by a financial organization. This financial organization then decided that it would shut down this profitable plant because they could make more

money by shutting the plant down and consolidating the production at a plant in a different part of the country. They did not argue that it was a problem of lack of profitability. They did not argue there was no way they could make a go of it in Massachusetts. They did not argue it was because our costs were too high.

Mr. Speaker, it was simply that because of the financial manipulations involved they now found it more profitable to shut down the plant. No one is asking them to lose money.

I have not gotten into detail about the names of individuals; I hope there will not be a need to do that, because I do not want to interfere with negotiations going on now. But it would be a failure on my part not to make clear to all concerned what the stakes are.

The stakes are these. We have a profitable plant in a part of the country where industry has, for a variety of reasons, been diminishing. Heavy industry. This plant is still profitable. It was bought. We have responsible, successful business people, themselves in the manufacturing business, working with the city government and the city of New Bedford, working with the union, the United Electrical Union, working with others, and they are ready to buy the plant at a reasonable price and keep it going. We are being told that we cannot have that, by some, not because this plant is not profitable but because, to be honest, some extremely wealthy people can add incrementally to their great wealth by throwing these people out of work.

That is why this is so important. The question that America has to confront right now is, are we at a point in our economic system, with the rules that have been set forth legally and in every other way, in which the jobs of the 100 people and of families dependent on them count for zero; in which the fact these people have been working very hard for many years profitably for their employer counts for zero; in which the great costs that would be imposed on the city of New Bedford and the surrounding area, the city of Fall River and surrounding areas where these people work, does that count for zero solely so that some people who are already quite wealthy can become a little bit wealthier?

They can increase wealth that will make no difference in their lives except when they chortle over the balance sheets.

I am not asking anyone to take a loss or to keep open a building or a plant that cannot make it. I am saying that, if we are going to be told that the rules are such that this financial conglomerate can come in and simply buy up a plant and shut it down and throw these people out of work and have no concern for the disastrous financial consequences, no concern for the tax losses, no concern for the unemployment compensation that will be paid out, for the mortgage loans that will be

defaulted, the student loans that will not be paid back; if the system allows a small number of people to get a little wealthier by causing this degree of financial havoc when the plant can make it on their own and people are willing to buy it and keep it running at a price that would be a reasonable price, then the rules have to be changed.

Mr. Speaker, I have met with the owners of the plant, along with business people from my district, along with the union and people from the mayor's office working with our Senators, Senators KENNEDY and KERRY. We are trying to persuade the owners to be reasonable, not to take a loss, not to subsidize anybody, but to tell us that the lives of these working people do not count for zero, that a marginal increment in their great wealth is not going to be the only factor. If in the end their answer is that nothing else counts in the balance, that nothing but their ability to maximize their already high profits will count, that all of the serious real economic costs that will be imposed on working people and on the city and on the State of Massachusetts, that those will count for nothing, then they are helping to convince me we have to change the rules.

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I want the free market system to work. I do not want to interfere with it. But I cannot as a Representative sit idly by and allow the system to go forward if the consequence is that extraordinarily decent hard-working people are penalized and victimized solely for the financial gain of a small number of people with no real economic improvement for society. I hope I will not have to again be at this microphone on this subject.

#### EDUCATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS of Georgia). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mr. MICA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor this evening to address my colleagues in the House on the subject of education. Everywhere you turn, in fact I just read this recent article in U.S. News and World Report, there is criticism about United States education. This U.S. News and World Report article and cover story is entitled Dumb and Dumber. It talks about the failure of the United States education.

Part of the debate here before Congress has been the question of how much money we throw at different programs. One of the questions I have always raised is, are we paying more and getting less?

One of the criticisms of the new Republican majority is that they were cutting "education." In fact, that really is not the case. If you just took a few minutes, Mr. Speaker, to look at the initial budget that we proposed for the House of Representatives and

spending for education over the next 7 years, you will find that we proposed an increase over those 7 years of \$24 billion in additional education spending.

The question, Mr. Speaker, is not just how much money that we throw at these problems, because we have increased the expenditures in almost every educational field over the past decade by tremendous sums of money. Then we get these headlines on our magazines, Dumb and Dumber. We find the results, the SAT scores have dropped, total average of, from 1972, a score of 937 to 902 in 1994. We find our 17-year-olds scored 17 points worse in science than in 1970. We find reading also at proficient levels, the scores have fallen since 1992. In math, U.S. students scored worse in math than all other large countries except for Spain. Thirty percent of college freshmen must take remedial education courses. This is nationwide. And my community college, the president of our local community college said it is up to 70 percent of his entering freshmen need remedial education. So we must look at how we are spending these tremendous sums of dollars and the amounts.

That is part of what this debate is about here, whether it is education or whether it is environment.

Let me give you two more examples. Here is an article, I brought this to the House before but it is absolutely astounding. It talks about job training programs and education programs, job education programs in the state of Florida.

This is just out in the last month, a State study. Florida, in Florida, State, local and Federal expenditures for these training programs were \$1 billion. Listen to this: Most students who entered the program never graduated. In all, 37 percent of 347 training and vocational programs performed poorly according to this report and only 20 percent of those enrolled in high school vocational programs completed that. The report found, and listen to this, of that figure only 19 percent found a full-time job after graduating and then were employed in just above a minimum wage, at a minimum wage level and out of that position in less than six months.

The examples go on and on. Here is another story that was in the Washington Post. Department of Labor spent about \$305,000 for each participant in a job program in Puerto Rico. The problem is, we are paying more and we are getting less. Part of it deals with the Department of Education, which now has 4,786 employees, of which 3,322 are in Washington, D.C., just a few blocks from here.

So part of this argument is paying more, getting less. Part of it is command and control in Washington. Part of it is giving these 3,322 bureaucrats down the street in the Federal Department of Education something to do. They do that. It is time that we brought that to a halt.

#### TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF VICTIMS RIGHTS WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to pay a special tribute and certainly with a great deal of remorse to the victims of crime throughout America. We honor this week Victims Rights Week, and we pay tribute to all of the men and women and children in this country whose lives have been cut short by hideous acts of violence.

In particular, I must cite several heinous crimes in my community: the vicious murders of Jennifer Ertman, Elizabeth Pena and Monique Miller of Houston, TX. Jennifer Ertman, 14, and Elizabeth Pena, 16, left a party and were taking a shortcut home near a park on June 24, 1993, when they crossed paths with 6 youths engaged in a drunken gang initiation rite. The two girls were repeatedly raped before being strangled and stomped to death by a mob.

Monique Miller was murdered and sexually abused by a repeat offender.

These teenagers and this very young child will never live out their dreams and live up to the great potential that each of them possessed. Their families will never see them achieve all that they should have. They will never attend a school dance again, go to college, get married or have their own families. Their dreams and the dreams that their parents had for them have been destroyed by senseless violence.

There is growing recognition in this country that most sex offense victims are children and that reporting of these offenses is still low. The FBI law enforcement bulletin reported that only 1 to 10 percent of child molestation cases are ever reported to police, and a National Victim Center survey estimated that 61 percent of rape victims are less than 18 years of age; 29 percent are less than 11 years of age.

A recent United States Department of Justice study of 11 jurisdictions and the District of Columbia reported that 10,000 women under the age of 18 were raped in 1992 in these jurisdictions. At least 3,800 were children under the age of 12.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics and the FBI, children under the age of 18 accounted for 11 percent of all murder victims in the United States in 1994. Between 1976 and 1994, an estimated 37,000 children were murdered. And half of all murders in 1994 were committed with a handgun; about 7 in 10 victims age 15 to 17 were killed with a handgun.

Clearly, we must do more to protect our children from violence. This requires more than jailing sex offenders and violent criminals after they commit crimes, although swift and effective punishment is important. This requires strong prevention and education which will keep our children from becoming victims of violent crime.

Tomorrow the House Committee on the Judiciary, of which I am a member, will mark up H.R. 2137, also known as Megan's Law, in honor of 7-year old Megan Kanka who was raped, strangled and murdered by a twice-convicted pedophile who lived across the street from her. I will be a cosponsor of this legislation.

This bill would amend the 1994 crime bill to require States to release relevant information regarding persons convicted of molesting or kidnapping children and certain other sex crimes, when it is necessary to protect the public. This bill would guarantee the appropriate dissemination of information so that parents, school officials and community groups can responsibly use the information in order to protect their children.

Today I pay tribute to these teenagers, Jennifer and Elizabeth and children like Monique and Megan, and I ask during Victims Rights Week we take time to recognize the victims of violent crime and work together to prevent senseless violence in our communities. Let us stand up against the repeal of the assault weapons ban. Let us recognize that the Brady bill must be reinforced to prevent reckless utilization of handguns. Let us understand that we must stop the siege of our children by pedophiles who recklessly go from State to State and perpetrate their violent acts on our innocent children.

Let us bring back innocence to America again so that men and women and children can be safe in their homes. Let us stand up for the victims of America.

We owe it to Jennifer, Elizabeth, Monique and Megan and all of the others whose lives have been snuffed out as a result of violent crimes. We owe it to the victims of Oklahoma City, and we owe it to ourselves. We owe it to America. Let us stand up against crime and let us stand for victims.

#### THE MINIMUM WAGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. COX] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. COX of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with my colleagues some words that come from a 67-year-old woman who works at the minimum wage in Santa Ana, CA:

Dear Congressman—she wrote me recently—I strongly advise you not to raise the minimum wage. In my working career, I have had a lot of under, slightly over and straight minimum wage jobs. As a single parent, I managed to raise my son without any handout from the government. Although raising the minimum wage may sound like a great humanitarian idea, it really isn't.

In the past every time minimum wages were raised, the entire national work force, plus welfare recipients, also demanded and received raises. The cost of goods and services rose to meet the higher cost of labor, and you forced me to work a lot of overtime to maintain the same buying power I had before my "generous" raise.